UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(1)/L.7
7 October 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
Rome, 29 September-10 October 1997

Draft decision of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Italy

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997 at the invitation of the Government of Italy,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of Italy for having made it possible for the Conference of the Parties to be held in Rome and for the excellent facilities so graciously placed at its disposal;

2. Requests the Government of Italy to convey to the city of Rome and to the people of Italy the gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

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Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: collaboration with other Conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the "Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21" adopted by the nineteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which, inter alia, recommends that the conference of the parties to conventions signed at the Rio Conference or as a result of it, as well as other conventions related to sustainable development, cooperate in exploring ways and means of collaborating in their work to advance the effective implementation of the conventions,

Recalling also the "Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21" adopted by the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, which, inter alia, recommends that the role of UNEP in the further development of international environmental law should be strengthened, including the development of coherent interlinkages among relevant environmental conventions

in cooperation with their respective conferences of the Parties or governing bodies. In performing its functions related to the conventions signed at the Rio Conference or as a result of it and other relevant conventions, UNEP should strive to promote the effective implementation of those conventions in a manner consistent with the provisions of the conventions and the decisions of the conferences of the Parties,

Recalling further that it welcomes and fully supports efforts of convention secretariats, in response to requests from the respective conference of the parties, to explore, where appropriate, modalities for suitable liaison arrangements in Geneva and/or New York for the purpose of enhancing linkages with delegations and organizations at those United Nations centres,

1. Takes note of the above-mentioned recommendations of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;

2. Requests the head of the interim secretariat to make all efforts to strengthen further the collaboration with other relevant conventions and in particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as well as other conventions related to sustainable development, and thereby assist UNEP in its role of developing coherent interlinkages among relevant environmental conventions in cooperation with their respective conferences of the parties;

3. Requests also the head of the interim secretariat to report to its next session on the implementation of this decision.

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Agenda item 7 (c) (i)

ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION BUDGET AND PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

Budget and programme for 1999

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 2 (g), which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and undertake necessary arrangements for their financing,

Having considered the proposed budget for 1999, as the second year of the biennium 1998-1999, presented by the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat in document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1, and taking account also of documents A/AC.241/46 and A/AC.241/65,

1. Approves the core budget of the Convention for 1999, as the second year of the biennium 1998-1999, for the following purposes, not including conference servicing costs:

	1999 Expenditures (thousands of US$)
I. Programmes administered by the Permanent Secretariat	
Policy-making organs	
Executive direction and management	
Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies	
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	
External relations	
Administration and systems support	
Administrative overhead charges	_____
Subtotal	
II. Working capital reserve	_____
TOTAL	_____

2. Takes note of estimates of contributions to offset the expenditures approved in paragraph 1 above, as follows:

	1999 Contributions (thousands of US$)
I. Contributions from the host Government	_____
II. Allotment of overhead for administration	_____

3. (a) Welcomes General Assembly resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996, and particularly paragraph 13 thereof whereby it requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, subject to the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, to consider maintaining the arrangements within the current programme budget of the United Nations for the interim secretariat to support the Convention beyond the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the Permanent Secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should be no later than 31 December 1998;

(b) Notes that conference servicing costs, provision for which has been requested from the United Nations General Assembly, are estimated at $937,800 for 1999, plus overhead charges; and that, should the General Assembly not accede to this request, the related cost will be charged to the Parties;

4. Approves the staffing table for the Permanent Secretariat under the 1999 core budget as follows:

	1999 posts
I. Professional category and above	
Head	
D-2	
D-1	
P-5	
P-4	
P-3	
P-2	_____
Subtotal	
II. General Service category	_____
TOTAL	_____

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties, at its second session, any proposed adjustments to the Convention budget for 1999, including programme expenditure, overhead charges and offsetting contributions, taking account particularly of revisions deriving from the decision on the physical location of the Permanent Secretariat;

6. Authorizes the head of the Permanent Secretariat to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines set out in paragraph 1, Part I, above, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for a given year for those appropriation lines, provided that in the process no appropriation line is reduced by more than 25 per cent;

7. Determines that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of _____ of core budget expenditure, including overhead charges;

8. Recalls that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rules, contributions for 1999 are expected on or before 1 January 1999 and that each Party should, as far in advance as possible of that date, inform the head of the Secretariat of the contribution it intends to make and the projected timing of that contribution;

9. Invites all Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full the contributions required to finance expenditures approved under paragraph 1 above as offset by estimated contributions noted in paragraph 2, taking account at an appropriate time of any revisions made to these estimates.

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ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION BUDGET AND PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the estimates for 1999 for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1,

1. Takes note of the estimated requirements submitted by the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat;

2. Invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Supplementary Fund to be established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules to meet requirements estimated at US$ ... in 1999, including overhead charges, in order to:

(a) support the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention; and the regional implementation Annexes;

(c) advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

3. Further invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to makes contributions to the Special Fund to be established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules to meet requirements estimated at US$ ... in 1999, including overhead charges, in order to support the participation of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

4. Requests the head of the Secretariat to report to the second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties on the status of the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund and to propose any related adjustments that might be required for 1999.